



UTAH VALLEY UNIVERSITY

LIBRARY

Donna Jones Morris, Director
State Library Division
Utah Department of Community and Culture

September 16, 2009

Dear Ms. Morris,

We are writing to you in support of the Orem Public Library's facility proposal, The Center for Story and Art.

It has been our pleasure to partner with the Orem Public Library in sponsoring cultural programs in Orem, with speakers and performing arts groups presenting at both Utah Valley University and at the Orem Public Library. Partner programs have included KUT, the folk music group presenting songs and stories from their native Kyrgystan; Dr. Rex Ellis, Associate Director for Curatorial Affairs of the Smithsonian National Museum of African American History and Culture, addressing diversity and race relations; Fred Adams, founder of the Utah Shakespearean Festival, speaking on the importance of literacy; Dr. William Sederberg, past president of the University, presenting on the importance of civic engagement; and Dr. Edith Gelles from Stanford University, speaking on her recently published work, *John and Abigail Adams: Portrait of a Marriage*.

These programs and others like them sustain the very fabric of an informed and educated citizenry and they enrich the quality of life for us all. Utah Valley University is committed to building such partnerships which make academic scholarship and research more accessible to the entire community.

The proposed Center for Story and Art includes a civic auditorium, a facility which is sorely needed to accommodate the large audiences who desire to participate in these cultural programs. This new facility will be a great boon to the community and we wholeheartedly endorse this project.

We urge you to support inclusion of the Orem Public Library's Center for Story and Art in the priorities for capital facilities projects.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Michael J. Freeman'.

Michael J. Freeman, director

Utah Valley University Library